

AMENDMENTS

Applicant requests that the Examiner enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

Claims 1-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) A method for detecting a ~~tumor-associated~~ heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A2/B1 RNA ~~species~~ in blood plasma from a human, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) centrifuging blood from a human to obtain plasma;
- b) extracting extracellular total RNA from blood plasma from said human, ~~wherein a fraction of said extracted RNA comprises a tumor-associated heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein RNA species;~~
- c) ~~amplifying or signal amplifying said~~ a fraction of the extracted RNA or cDNA prepared therefrom, either qualitatively or quantitatively, using primers or probes specific for a ~~tumor-associated~~ heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A2/B1 RNA ~~species~~, or cDNA therefrom, to produce an amplified product ~~or using labeled primers or probes specific for tumor-associated heterogeneous ribonucleoprotein RNA species, or cDNA therefrom, to produce an amplified signal;~~ and
- d) ~~detecting~~ assaying either quantitatively or qualitatively the amplified product ~~or amplified signal of tumor-associated~~ to detect heterogeneous ribonucleoprotein A2/B1 RNA, or cDNA therefrom.

34. (Currently amended) A method for detecting a ~~tumor-associated~~ heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A2/B1 RNA ~~species~~ in serum from a human, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) extracting extracellular total RNA from serum from a human, ~~wherein a fraction of said extracted RNA comprises a tumor-associated heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein RNA species;~~

- b) ~~amplifying or signal amplifying said~~ a fraction of the extracted RNA or cDNA prepared therefrom, either qualitatively or quantitatively, using primers or probes specific for a ~~tumor-associated~~ heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A2/B1 RNA ~~species~~, or cDNA therefrom, to produce an amplified product ~~or using~~ ~~labeled primers or probes specific for tumor-associated heterogeneous ribonucleoprotein RNA species, or cDNA therefrom, to produce an amplified~~ signal; and
- c) ~~detecting~~ assaying either quantitatively or qualitatively the amplified product ~~or~~ ~~amplified signal of said tumor-associated~~ to detect heterogeneous ribonucleoprotein A2/B1 RNA, or cDNA therefrom.

35. (Currently amended) A method for detecting a ~~tumor-associated~~ heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A2/B1 RNA ~~species~~ in pleural fluid from a human, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) extracting extracellular total RNA from pleural fluid from a human, ~~wherein a fraction of said extracted RNA comprises a tumor-associated heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein RNA species;~~
- b) ~~amplifying or signal amplifying said~~ a fraction of the extracted RNA or cDNA prepared therefrom, either qualitatively or quantitatively, using primers or probes specific for a ~~tumor-associated~~ heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A2/B1 RNA ~~species~~, or cDNA therefrom, to produce an amplified product ~~or using~~ ~~labeled primers or probes specific for tumor-associated heterogeneous ribonucleoprotein RNA species, or cDNA therefrom, to produce an amplified~~ signal; and
- c) ~~detecting~~ assaying either quantitatively or qualitatively the amplified product or amplified signal of said ~~tumor-associated~~ to detect heterogeneous ribonucleoprotein A2/B1 RNA, or cDNA therefrom.